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ATTN: TFT EA COMMENT SUBMITTAL
355th Fighter Wing Public Affairs
3405 S. Fifth Street
Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ 85707

I am writing in response to the release of the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Total Force Training Mission for Visiting Units by the United States Air Force and to express my support for the expansion of the mission at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. As the Air Force considers implementing a year-round training mission at Davis-Monthan, public input is essential. I urge the Air Force to carefully listen to the voices of our community and to their comments.

Davis-Monthan has been the home of military operations in Tucson for more than 70 years. The installation infuses nearly \$1 billion into our local economy every year. A recent study has shown strong public support for the continuing presence of the units at Davis-Monthan. This is not surprising as Southern Arizona is home to a broad defense industry and one of the nation's largest military and veteran communities, including the 162nd Wing of the Air National Guard, Fort Huachuca, Yuma Proving Ground, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, the Barry M. Goldwater Range, the Navy Operational Support Center and the 1-285th Attack/Reconnaissance Battalion at Silverbell Army Heliport.

The draft Environmental Assessment found that an expansion of the mission at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base would have no significant impacts on noise, air quality, climate, public safety or transportation around the base. Additionally, the assessment finds that the increased training will help build and maintain readiness in the Air Force and in our partnerships with allied forces. This is especially needed given the growing instability worldwide. While these findings were supportive of the mission, I take seriously the concerns about any unintended effects that this expansion could have on the community surrounding DM and am committed to working together to mitigate any issues that might arise.

I am grateful for the exceptional work of the service members based at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and Tucson International Airport and I am proud that this Total Force Training Mission will call Southern Arizona home. With our optimal weather, exceptional flying conditions and close proximity to training ranges, Southern Arizona is the logical choice for the Air Force to continue to build missions for our national air defense.

I remain committed to working with the Air Force to support its mission and our shared goal of a strong and ready national defense.

Sincerely,



Ron Barber
Member of Congress